

THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART
ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

MAY 87

Please complete and return the following questionnaire for our reference file on May Show artists.

FULL NAME: Paul Edward Coleman

PRESENT POSITION Carpenter

DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH: 5/24/1953, Bellefonte, PA

CATEGORY/PRIMARY MEDIA: Paintings/ Latex and Acrylic on Masonite

ART TRAINING (Schools, Scholarships, etc.): B.A., Heidelberg College, Tiffin, OH, 1975
Workshop, Arcosanti, Mayer, AZ, 1975

EXHIBITIONS IN WHICH YOUR WORK HAS BEEN SHOWN (include location and year):

Cultural Center, Sandusky, OH, 1982 and 1986
C.A.G.E., Cincinnati, OH, 1984
Wassenberg Art Center, Van Wert, OH, 1984
Old Detroit Gallery, Rocky River, OH, 1985
Pentagon Gallery, Cleveland Heights, OH, since 1985

COLLECTIONS THAT NOW INCLUDE YOUR WORK:

The Charles Mayer Collection
The Terry and Sharon Hartman Collection

AWARDS:



We would appreciate having a statement about your philosophy and work as an artist—either general or something specific about the piece(s) selected for this year's May Show to aid us in the preparation of gallery talks and in the release of publicity materials. For more space, use the back of this sheet.

Names by themselves may be empty, but the act of naming...
-- T. Pynchon

My paintings tend to be about ideas. Not the great ideas like service and peace, other people have that ground covered, but fun little ideas, the nuttier the better. In this painting, the Carrotrino Beam, the notion seems to be that cartoonist Chuck Jones has developed a proposal for President Reagan's Star Wars Space Defense. In the center of the picture a dangerous ray is crashing through metal demonstration plates accompanied by pseudo-scientific timing and angle marks.

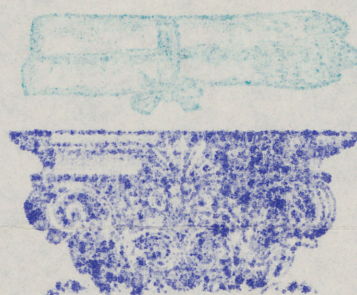
The figure in the lower right-hand corner is a recurring character that I have named Atomic Bob. He is often a passive observer whose chief characteristic is that we never see his eyes....I wonder why. In the lower left there is a representation of a bubble chamber collision of a neutrino. The neutrino is an especially elusive sub-atomic particle that has been combined with the magic carrot in the upper right-hand corner to power the dread carrotrino beam. The hungry half-animated Bugs Bunny in the upper right corner has observed the carrot in the beam mechanism and in a moment will create comedic havoc in his attempt to steal it.

The connection could be made that the Star Wars Defense Program, when operational (ha), acts not as impressive hardware but primarily as a threat and is therefore about as substantial as humor, which is to say not at all. But really this picture was painted with much less guile. Ray guns in the news? Let's paint a funny one to see what it would look like.

New combinations, opposites, and mistakes are just answers for the wrong questions, they are the subjects of my paintings. My work is not about paint or forms or dreams; it is about the invention of ideas because....well, because that's what I like to do.

And when I do my job, I am thinking about these things. Because when I do my job, that is what I think about.

--L.Anderson



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PRESENT POSITION day job: Carpenter

DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH: 5/24/53 Bellefonte, PA

CATEGORY/PRIMARY MEDIA: Paintings

ART TRAINING (Schools, Scholarships, etc.): Heidelberg College BA 1975

EXHIBITIONS IN WHICH YOUR WORK HAS BEEN SHOWN (include location and year):

Cultural Center, Sandusky, OH, 1982, 1986

C.A.G.E., Cincinnati, OH, 1984

Wassenberg Art Center, Van Wert, OH, 1984

May Show, Cleveland, OH, 1987

Wonderful Things on Bellflower, Cleveland, OH 1987

COLLECTIONS THAT NOW INCLUDE YOUR WORK:

Terry Hartmann, Lakewood, OH

Charles Mayer, Sandusky, OH

Gary Divoky, Cleveland, OH

Frank Giaimo, Cleveland, OH



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This year's painting includes the character I call "Atomic Bob".

A.Bob made his first public appearance in the 1987 May Show

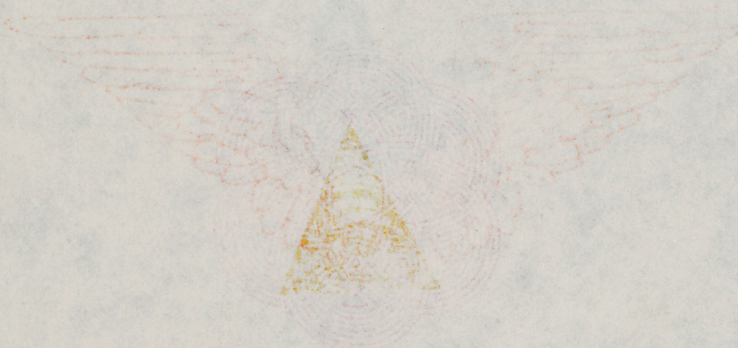
as a small part of a painting called "The Carrotrino Beam",

and since then he has done quite a bit of growing up. He

has been becoming concerned with natural and social anomalies.

He is convinced that if he identifies anomalies and arranges

them for frequency and amplitude that he could read the resulting chart as easily as flights of birds or tea leaves. Armed with these signs and portents he feels he could, if he were clever, make sense of things. After all, events are either connected or they aren't and some people would be very interested to know for sure. But, however dedicated A.Bob is, he remains an amateur, perhaps even self-defeating--so the outcome is always in doubt, the experiment flawed. Like the physicist Heisenberg's cat, A.Bob constantly blunders into his own experiments thereby changing their outcome just a little too much to be useful, leaving only a tantalizing residue of wrecked information and broken clues.



P.C. Sandusky 5/15/1988

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FULL NAME: Paul Edward Coleman

PRESENT POSITION Carpenter.

DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH: 5/24/53 Bellefont PA

CATEGORY/PRIMARY MEDIA: Painting

ART TRAINING (Schools, Scholarships, etc.): BA Heidelberg College



EXHIBITIONS IN WHICH YOUR WORK HAS BEEN SHOWN (include location and year):

Summer Invitational, Fiori Gallery, Cleveland OH, 1989

Trumbull Art Gallery, Warren, OH, 1989

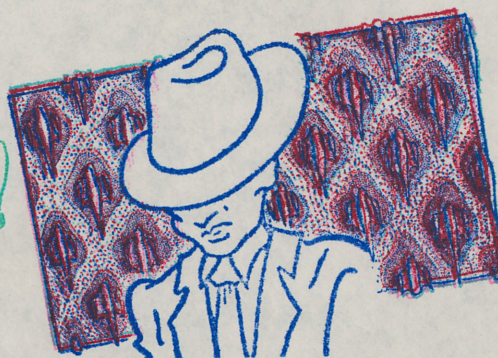
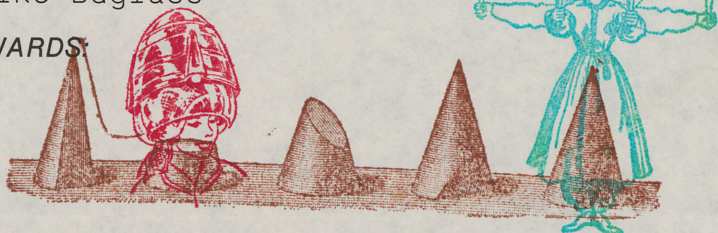
Visions in a New Age, Fiori Gallery, Cleveland, OH, 1988

Atomic Bob Rules the World, Livingstine-Taylor Gallery, Sandusky, OH, 1988

COLLECTIONS THAT NOW INCLUDE YOUR WORK:

Charles Mayer
Terry Hartmann
Mark Bertsch
Adelaide Mullane
Mike Buglass

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"The Fall of Astroboy" is part of a several year long series of paintings that feature the Atomic Bob character. In this painting A.Bob, in the hat, is joined by Myrtle Magnificent, a guardian angel, and Astroboy, the little robot who would like to be a real boy.

The Atomic Bob paintings refer loosely to the novels of Thomas Pynchon who writes about language and control. In "The Fall of Astroboy" the three comrades are depicted on a featureless background. It was my intention to show that they had all arrived at the same

place but not at the same time. Even though though their paths
crossed they were seperated. It is a painting about missed
connections... about the small tragedy that happens when lovers
pass each other unknowingly.

